

Whereas scientists at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory discovered the revolutionary new truth of the accelerating expansion of the universe, are pioneering the promising new scientific field of synthetic biology, and are harnessing the secrets of the genome to help solve the grand challenges of the world;

Whereas, through those accomplishments and others, including finding the antiproton, advancing energy efficiency and conservation technologies, deciphering the photosynthetic process, pioneering the field of nuclear medicine, and spearheading the development of alternative energy sources, scientists of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory have played a critical role in advancing the world leadership of the United States in fundamental and applied sciences;

Whereas the national scientific user facilities of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory provide the highest level of scientific, engineering, and technical support to thousands of scientists each year whose published works continue to consistently enrich their respective research fields;

Whereas the newest user facility of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the Molecular Foundry, opened its doors on March 24, 2006, to enable the design, synthesis, and characterization of nanoscale materials, thereby opening the door to unimaginable scientific and technological advancements;

Whereas the Advanced Light Source of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory is a national user facility that generates intense light for scientific and technological research that, among other accomplishments, has helped reveal how bacteria resist antibiotics, how inexpensive and efficient solar cells can be fabricated, and how unique substances like quasicrystals possess properties never before seen by humans;

Whereas the National Center for Electron Microscopy of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory houses several of the most advanced microscopes and tools for micro-characterization in the world, including the One-Angstrom Microscope and the Spin Polarized Low-Energy Electron Microscope, that allow scientists to gain a basic scientific understanding of new energy-efficient materials, as well as to analyze the behavior of materials such as magnets, superconductors, ceramics, and high-temperature alloys; and

Whereas the National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory is the flagship scientific computing facility for the Office of Science of the Department of Energy, and is 1 of the largest facilities in the world that is devoted to providing computational resources and expertise for basic scientific research: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the outstanding and unique role that the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has played over the past 75 years in the scientific and technological advancement of the United States and the international community; and

(2) congratulates the dedicated past and present scientists and researchers who have worked at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to make the institution 1 of the greatest research resources in the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 596—DESIGNATING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2006, AS “NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION DAY” TO HONOR AND CELEBRATE THE FIREFIGHTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was:

S. RES 596

Whereas there are more than 1,100,000 firefighters in the United States;

Whereas approximately 75 percent of all firefighters in the United States are volunteers who receive little or no compensation for their heroic work;

Whereas there are more than 30,000 fire departments in the United States;

Whereas thousands of firefighters have died in the line of duty since the date that Benjamin Franklin founded the first volunteer fire department in 1735;

Whereas 346 firefighters and emergency personnel died while responding to the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001;

Whereas firefighters respond to more than 20,000,000 calls during a typical year;

Whereas firefighters also provide emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, special rescue response, terrorism response, and life safety education;

Whereas, in 1922, President Harding declared the week of October 9 to be “Fire Prevention Week”; and

Whereas the second Tuesday in October is an appropriate day for the establishment of a “National Firefighter Appreciation Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates Tuesday, October 10, 2006, as “National Firefighter Appreciation Day” to honor and celebrate the firefighters of the United States.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, every year in the United States, over one million firefighters working with approximately thirty thousand fire departments risk their lives to protect our Nation. Nearly seventy-five percent of those firefighters are volunteers; they put their lives on the line and get almost nothing in return. Volunteer and paid firefighters alike are often forgotten until tragedy strikes and they valiantly come to the rescue. I think that it is regrettable that many of us fail to recognize the sacrifice these brave men and women make every day.

Therefore, today I submit a resolution to establish the first annual National Firefighter Appreciation Day on October 10, 2006.

National Firefighter Appreciation Day will be a day for all Americans to take time to appreciate the firefighters in their communities. National Firefighter Appreciation Day will fall on the second Tuesday in October, during Fire Prevention Week, which has been held over the week of October ninth since 1922. I seek to have this day annually celebrated on the second Tuesday in October for many years to come.

Firefighters are often the first responders at the scene of a disaster. Their rigorous training and determination equip them to put out fires, provide first aid, and stabilize volatile sit-

uations. In their long shifts at the fire station, these strong men and women are prepared for disaster, large or small.

Firefighters also provide life safety education, installing fire alarms and distributing information on fire prevention, working to prevent disasters before they occur. One notable time that firefighters and fire marshals engage with the community is when they educate children about ways to prevent fires during Fire Prevention Week. Now, these children will have a reminder on National Firefighter Appreciation Day to stop and thank the firefighters who protect them when the flames get out of control.

In my State of Oklahoma we know the pain of dealing with loss from a terrorist attack and the importance of firefighters in the aftermath. In 1995, when Timothy McVeigh bombed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, 168 people lost their lives. Firefighters and everyday citizens bravely responded to this horrendous act. They accomplished the task of bringing out all victims from the building without loss of life or significant injury to the firefighters and rescue personnel. According to Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum, seventy-five fire departments across Oklahoma participated in the rescue recovery for fifteen days and fifteen hours. In addition, seven states were represented with the FEMA emergency personnel that aided in recovery. Sadly, ten of the firefighters that came to help were from New York City and later died honorably in the September 11th attacks. The entire world watched while every available resource of the city, state, and federal government was mobilized to respond to the attack at the Murrah building.

Most of us are aware of firefighters' efforts in such major disasters. However, we often do not hear about their seemingly smaller acts of heroism. For example, two years ago firefighters in Oklahoma City dove into an ice covered lake to save an eight-year-old boy who had fallen through the ice. The boy had been treading water and holding onto the ice on the edge of the pond for 15 minutes before he was saved by the firefighters. Had he not been rescued by those men, this young boy would have probably died.

In a similar incident a few years before, firefighters responded to a sighting of two young brothers swept downstream in the waterway in Oklahoma City. The rescuers had to take into account a number of factors, including a very rapid current and the physical condition of the boys, to rescue them from the water. Everyday, firefighters protect the public and save lives.

Probably the most notable firefighter response of our time occurred in New York City after the September 11th terrorist attacks. In the midst of a tragic situation, New York City firefighters rushed into the World Trade Center buildings to rescue those left inside. When the buildings collapsed,

they worked day and night to search for people in the rubble. In the end, 346 firefighters and emergency personnel lost their lives.

The heroism and bravery shown by the firefighters and rescue workers in the immediate aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks led Connor Gehrarty, the son of a New York City firefighter who perished in the rescue efforts after September 11th, to circulate via e-mail the idea of establishing a day to honor firefighters.

Connor has noted that there is substantial remembrance of events such as the Oklahoma City bombing and 9-11. Connor emphasizes that firefighters deserve their own distinct day to be honored for the full panoply of their service. I agree.

Connor has worked diligently for five years to try to accomplish his goal. My office was able to get in touch with him using Facebook, a networking website, and inform him of the plans to make his idea a reality with this resolution. He is very supportive of this legislation.

The Oklahoma State Firefighters Association was also helpful with suggestions in the drafting of this legislation. The Oklahoma State Firefighters Association (OSFA) has 14,000 members consisting of paid (union and non-union), volunteer, and retired firefighters. In addition to providing support, services, and events for firefighters in Oklahoma, the OSFA oversees the Oklahoma Firefighters Museum and the Oklahoma Fallen and Living Firefighters Memorial. I am pleased with the dedication of this organization and the positive role it plays in the lives of Oklahoma's firefighters. I appreciate their suggestions and support of this resolution.

The OSFA is one of many organizations of firefighters in Oklahoma and around the country that impress me. Just last week, a group of fire marshals came all the way up from Oklahoma to visit my DC office. That visit spurred me to move forward with this resolution.

I pledge to ensure that as we celebrate the first annual National Firefighter Appreciation Day and many more in years to come, the hard-working and courageous individuals that make up groups such as these will be honored in a distinct way that is long overdue.

In light of the heroism and inspirational example of firefighters, please join me in naming the second Tuesday of October National Firefighter Appreciation Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 597—DESIGNATING THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 8, 2006, AND ENDING ON OCTOBER 14, 2006, AS “NATIONAL HISPANIC MEDIA WEEK”, IN HONOR OF THE HISPANIC MEDIA OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. BINGA-

MAN, and Mr. NELSON of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was:

S. RES. 597

Whereas, for almost 470 years, the United States has benefitted from the work of Hispanic writers and publishers;

Whereas more than 600 Hispanic publishers circulate more than 20,000,000 copies of publications every week in the United States;

Whereas 1 out of every 8 citizens of the United States is served by a Hispanic publisher;

Whereas the Hispanic press informs many citizens of the United States about the great political, economic, and social issues of the day;

Whereas the Hispanic press of the United States particularly focuses on informing and promoting the well-being of the Hispanic community of the United States; and

Whereas, by commemorating the achievements of the Hispanic press, the Senate acknowledges the important role that the Hispanic press has played in the history of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the period beginning on October 8, 2006, and ending on October 14, 2006, as “National Hispanic Media Week”, in honor of the Hispanic Media of the United States; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate programs and activities.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to submit an important resolution designating October 8 through the 14 as National Hispanic Media Week. I am joined by Senators BINGAMAN, SALAZAR, MARTINEZ, and NELSON of Florida in the introduction of this resolution.

This is the second year in which the Senate has designated a week to honor the Hispanic media of America. An institution that can trace its origins to almost four hundred years ago, America's Hispanic journalists and publishers have worked tirelessly to promote the free and deliberative exchange of ideas. The Hispanic media has played an important role in protecting cherished freedoms and rights. They have also worked to preserve our freedom of speech and have encouraged the growth of civic engagement in our nation's Hispanic community.

Since its early days, the Hispanic media has grown to serve a population exceeding 20 million people. In my home State of New Mexico, approximately 42 percent of the population is Hispanic. I know that many of these individuals turn to Hispanic media for news and other important information. As such, I am honored to be able to support a group that is important to so many people in my home State and in our great nation.

This resolution calls on the American people to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and states across the Nation to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join us in promptly passing this Resolution designating October 8 through October 14 as National Hispanic Media Week.

SENATE RESOLUTION 598—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 15, 2006, AS “NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK”

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. TALENT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. CRIAG, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. DOLE, and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution, which was:

S. RES. 598

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry with good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young people to play a role in determining the future of the United States;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those who have an interest in the education and training of the young people of the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into their teaching activities; and